

ORIGINAL



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Safety Light Corporation (SLC) Site

EPA Site Proposal to NPL
Public Meeting
November 4, 2004
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Central Columbia Middle School

EPA

Presenters

- ◆ Trish Taylor, US EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
- ◆ Jeff Whitehead, PA DEP Radiation Health Physicist
- ◆ Marie Miller, US NRC Senior Health Physicist, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
- ◆ Linda C. Baxter, US EPA HRS / NPL Coordinator
- ◆ Dennis Matlock, US EPA On-Scene Coordinator
- ◆ Linda Dietz, US EPA Remedial Project Manager

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NRC's Role at the SLC Site

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Marie Miller
Senior Health Physicist
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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NRC'S Role At The Safety Light Corporation Site

Marie Miller, Senior Health Physicist
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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Why Is Safety Light Corp. (SLC) Licensed by NRC?

- SLC produces exit signs filled with tritium, a material regulated by NRC.
- Radioactive materials used since the mid 1950s require regulation by NRC to ensure cleanup.
- Regulations require controls to limit radioactive exposures to its workers and the public.
- Since 1990, financial assurance regulations require a decommissioning funding plan for site cleanup.

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Significant Issues at SLC

- Site studies showed varying levels of contamination from primarily, cesium-137, tritium, strontium-90 and radium-226 in the soil, onsite groundwater, and several buildings



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Significant Issues at SLC

- Removal of the Radioactive Waste from an Underground Silo started in 1999 with \$2 Million spent so far
- Insufficient funds to complete this cleanup project or other cleanups from past operations
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency RIII Emergency Removal Action Funds needed

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Safety Light Inspection Results

- Adequate controls of radioactive contamination
- Exposure limits to the workers and public are being met
- Currently generated waste being disposed



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Coordination With Other Agencies (EPA & PADEP)

- NRC requested EPA involvement to evaluate the contamination at the site, because SLC lacked the necessary cleanup funds
- PADEP also requested EPA assistance for evaluating the site for placement on the National Priorities List

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SLC Licensing Status

- In April 2004, SLC requested a renewal of their licenses for a five-year period
- NRC publicly announced receipt of applications and requested comments from EPA and PADEP regarding SLC requests to continue to use tritium and maintain the site
- PADEP filed an Administrative Hearing Request on certain concerns about the tritium license
- NRC is evaluating the renewal requests

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Need Further Information?

- **NRC Project Contacts**

Robert Prince, Health Physicist,
Decommissioning Branch

610-337-5676 or RJP4@nrc.gov

Ronald Bellamy, Chief, Decommissioning Branch

610-337-5200 or RRB1@nrc.gov



- **NRC Web Site Info**

www.nrc.gov

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NPL/HRS Coordinator

◆ Linda C. Baxter

Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

EPA Region 3 (Philadelphia, PA)

◆ EPA's Mission:

» *To protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment – air, water, and land – upon which life depends.*

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Superfund Response Actions

◆ **Removal:** short-term actions to address emergency or time-critical situations.

◆ **Remedial:** longer-term actions to permanently address situations that pose potentially serious, but not immediate, threats. Remedial response actions may only be taken at sites on the National Priorities List ("NPL").

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National Priorities List ("NPL")

◆ A list of releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances (i.e., sites) which need further investigation. This follow-up investigation fully evaluates the risks posed to human health and the environment, in order to determine what, if any, remedial actions should be taken.

◆ EPA also seeks the recommendation of the relevant State environmental agency.

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Hazard Ranking System ("HRS")

◆ Four HRS pathways:

- » ground water migration
- » surface water migration
- » air migration
- » soil exposure

◆ For each pathway, three factors are evaluated:

- » waste characteristics
- » likelihood of release
- » targets/receptors

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HRS Scoring of Price Battery Site

◆ HRS scoring is based on information available at this time, and is subject to change as a result of public comments.

◆ Pathways: For Safety Light Corp., the ground water migration pathway, and surface water migration pathway were evaluated.

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HRS Scoring (continued)

◆ Waste Characteristics

- » EPA identified five source areas of contamination which comprised of contaminated surface soils, two lagoons, underground silos, and aboveground storage tanks.
- » The hazardous substances associated with these sources include metals such as arsenic, lead, chromium, and mercury and radionuclides such as radium 226, strontium 90, tritium, and cesium 137.

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HRS Scoring (continued)

◆ **Observed Release:** EPA documented observed releases to two pathways:

◆ A release of tritium and radium to ground water

◆ A release of tritium to the surface waters of the Susquehanna River

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HRS Scoring (continued)

◆ **Targets/Receptors:** On-site monitoring wells and the Susquehanna River have been affected by the hazardous substances identified above

◆ **HRS Score:** 70.71

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NPL Listing Procedure

◆ Proposed in a *Federal Register* rule

» September 23, 2004

◆ 60-Day public comment period

» opened September 23, 2004 (NPL proposal date)

» closes November 22, 2004

◆ Final determination of whether to add the site to the NPL, announced in another *Federal Register*

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Reviewing Documents

Bloomsburg Public Library
225 Market Street
Bloomsburg, PA.

Internet

www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/newprop.htm

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmn (click on "Pennsylvania"
and then the site name)

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Reviewing Documents (continued)

EPA Region 3 Library / NPL Docket (3PM52)

1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-5364

EPA Headquarters Superfund Docket

1301 Constitution Ave., EPA West, Room B102
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 566-0276

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Submitting Comments

Mail the original plus three copies to:

Docket Coordinator
U.S. EPA Headquarters
CERCLA Docket Office
Mail Code 5201G
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

For express mail, replace the last three lines above with: 1235 Jefferson
Davis Hwy, Crystal Gateway #1, First Floor, Arlington, VA 22202.

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Removal Enforcement and Oil Section

Dennis Matlock
On Scene Coordinator
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
Wheeling, West Virginia

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EPA Enforcement Involvement

- ◆ NRC requests EPA Enforcement and Site Assessment assistance.
- ◆ Concern - Radioactive waste and associated staging area.
- ◆ EPA determines Imminent and Substantial Endangerment to Public Health or Welfare or to the Environment.
- ◆ EPA pursues the issuance of an Order to potential responsible parties (PRPs).

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Administrative Consent Order EPA Docket # 03-2002-0196DC

- ◆ Signed February 3, 2003.
- ◆ Order between EPA and Safety Light.
- ◆ RP prepares a Response Action Work Plan (RAP) for EPA.
- ◆ Abate, mitigate, and/or eliminate the release or threat of release.
- ◆ Characterize the nature, concentration and extent of radioactive silo wastes.

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Administrative Consent Order (cont.)

- ◆ Construction of a safe work process area.
- ◆ Secure radiation wastes for disposal to NRC licensed disposal facility.
- ◆ Safety Light has initiated some T&D.
- ◆ Next Step - OSC request for funding to Complete T&D of silo radiation wastes.

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EPA Removal Involvement

- ◆ Removal: Short-term action to address emergency or time-critical situations.
- ◆ Action Memo signed July 12, 2004.
- ◆ The Site met the criteria as defined by the NCP 300.415(b)(2) for a removal action.
- ◆ Continue to coordinate with PADEP and NRC all actions anticipated for the Site.
- ◆ Ensure site security.

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EPA Removal Involvement (cont.)

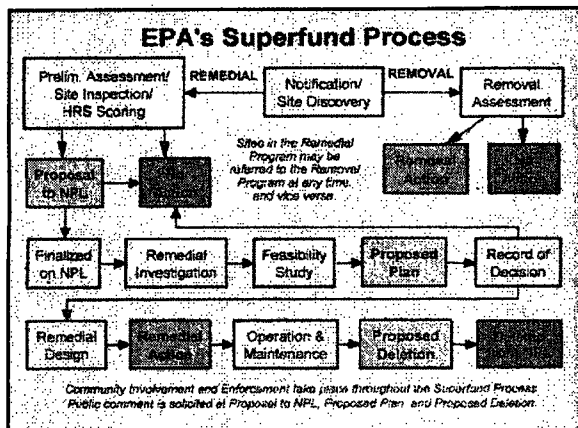
- ◆ Establish field support facilities.
- ◆ Ensure 24- hour security coverage.
- ◆ Complete any necessary characterization and other data compilation necessary for proper disposal.
- ◆ T&D to an NRC licensed facility.

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Next Step

- ◆ When Removal Action items complete?
- ◆ Transition to EPA Remedial Program.

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Q & A

◆ Question and Answers Session

- » Agency representatives are available to answer your SLC questions
- » A contact list is available, in case you may have a question at a later date

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